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REMARKS

The Office Action of January 5, 2007 and the Advisory Action of June 12, 2007 were received and carefully reviewed. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the currently pending rejections are requested for the reasons advanced in detail below.

Claims 1, 3, 18, 20, 27, 29, 36 and 38 were pending prior to the instant amendment. Claims 2, 4-7, 9, 11-17, 19, 21-26, 28, 30-35, 37, and 39-44 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 8 and 10 have been canceled. By this amendment, claims 1, 3 and 18 are amended. Consequently, claims 1, 3, 18, 20, 27, 29, 36 and 38 are currently pending for consideration in the instant application.

Claims 1, 3, 18, 20, 27, 29, 36 and 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Ichijo et al. (U.S. 6,821,828). Ichijo et al., however, fails to render the claimed invention unpatentable. Each of the claims recite a specific combination of features that distinguishes the invention from the prior art in different ways. For example, amended independent claims 1 recites a combination that includes, among other things:

forming a second amorphous semiconductor film over the first crystalline semiconductor film by sputtering while a magnetic field is applied to a target using a magnet,

(claim 1, ll. 8-9). Independent claim 3 recites yet another combination that includes, inter alia,

forming a second amorphous semiconductor film over the first amorphous semiconductor film by sputtering while a magnetic field is applied to a target using a magnet,

(claim 3, ll. 6-7). At the very least, Ichijo et al. fails to disclose or suggest any of these exemplary features recited in amended independent claims 1 and 3.

For anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102, the reference must teach every aspect of the claimed invention either explicitly or impliedly. Any feature not directly taught must be

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inherently present (M.P.E.P. 706.02). Since each and every element, as set forth in the claims are not found either expressly or inherently described as required by the M.P.E.P., Ichijo et al. cannot be said to anticipate the invention as claimed. Hence, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Each of the dependent claims depend from one of independent claims 1 or 3 and are patentable over the cited prior art for at least the same reasons as set forth above with respect to claims 1 and 3.

In addition, each of the dependent claims also recite combinations that are separately patentable.

In view of the foregoing remarks, this claimed invention, as amended, is not rendered obvious in view of the prior art references cited against this application. Applicant therefore request the entry of this response, the Examiner's reconsideration and reexamination of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

In discussing the specification, claims, and drawings in this response, it is to be understood that Applicant in no way intends to limit the scope of the claims to any exemplary embodiments described in the specification and/or shown in the drawings. Rather, Applicant is entitled to have the claims interpreted broadly, to the maximum extent permitted by statute, regulation, and applicable case law.

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Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite issuance of the application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigned patent agent at (202) 585-8316.

Respectfully submitted,

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